

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/637,387

Applicant(s)

HAUGEN ET AL.

Examiner

JEAN JANVIER

Art Unit

3688

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE ____ MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: ____

705/14
Notice of Allowability

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All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERIT IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 01/29/08.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 3-15 and 30.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

After the Board Decision

After the Board Decision, which reversed the Examiner's Action because, according to the Judges, although the prior art or the Biorge's Patent teaches receiving an authentication level or a code from a customer during a redemption of at least a portion of the customer's credits stored along with the code on the customer's card or device memory, **however, the Judges agreed with the Applicant that Biorge fails to disclose that the code or authentication level is being determined from the award transaction information associated with the selected consumer and maintained in the transaction history database, as recited in at least independent claims 3, 10 and 13. Thus, claims 3-15 and 30 are said to be allowable in view of the Board Decision.**

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Please cancel claims 16-29.

Please delete the current title and replace it with the following title-

--A system And Method For Determining The Level Of A Authentication Required For Redeeming A Customer's Award Credits--.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

US Patent 6, 142, 371A to Omeda discloses a customer service system having a point value and discount rate.

US Patent 5, 537, 314 to Kanter discloses referral recognition system having a point and discount conversion tables.

US Patent 6,003, 013 to Boushy discloses a casino incentive reward program for providing reward points to a player utilizing casino game machines via a network.

US Patent 5,937,391A to Ikeda discloses a point-service system (incentive reward program) for issuing points to a customer for purchases made at various stores or shops within an online shopping mall (first reward program) comprising a points issuing unit 1 of fig. 1 for issuing points based on purchase amounts of the customer or participant (col. 3: 52-53), a points management unit 2 of fig. 2 for storing the points (total points or base points) accumulated by the customer and a points redeeming unit 3 of fig. 1 for reducing a purchase amount of the customer upon redeeming points at any participating store within the mall. This system shortens the time from issuing points to redeeming points. In one embodiment, Ikeda discloses a service system wherein a specific or registered customer makes a request to buy goods (participant's action) from a home page of an online shopping mall and in response to this request, the service system causes the number of effective points (base points) accumulated by the customer and issued by a plurality of shops for each purchase made at each respective shop to be displayed on the customer's terminal or participant's unit, subsequent to identifying the customer or participant using the customer's or participant's ID, by referring to the data of each shop forming part of the online shopping mall. If the customer still decides to order a product (participant's action), he can click on a shopping button associated with one of the displayed shops to subsequently access an

order button and, hence, the point-service system or service system linked to a web server of the online shopping mall is activated to issue points or redeem points at the customer's request or instructions when he inputs an order (see abstract; col. 2: 10-67; figs. 1-19). It is to be understood that a customer can explicitly or implicitly make a request from the point-service system to buy a product from a participating shop, redeem points or simply query the point-service system database for the effective points (base points) accumulated to date (col. 5: 22-38; col. 4: 34-40; col. 10: 55 to col. 11: 3).

USP 6,141,754 to Volt discloses a distributed content entity that includes a protection specification and an information entity, in which the protection specification and the information entity are attached and transported together. The protection specification includes information for controlling the use of the information entity. A framework generates the distributed content entity, in which the framework includes a protection specification unit storing the protection specification and including an access control enforcement manager and an enhanced access control enforcement manager; an information unit for storing the protected information entity; and an access checking unit connected to the protection specification unit and the information unit. The access checking unit checks whether a user has a privilege to access the protected information entity based on the protection specification and the access control manager, and checks whether the requested access meets conditions determined based on the protection specification and enforced by the enhanced access control manager. An example of the enhanced access control manager is a terms and conditions enforcement manager for enforcing the terms and conditions of an agreement relating to permitted uses of the protected information entity.

USP 6,185,683 to Ginter discloses that documents and other items can be delivered

electronically from sender to recipient with a level of trustedness approaching or exceeding that provided by a personal document courier. A trusted electronic go-between can validate, witness and/or archive transactions while, in some cases, actively participating in or directing the transaction. Printed or imaged documents can be marked using handwritten signature images, seal images, electronic fingerprinting, watermarking, and/or steganography. Electronic commercial transactions and transmissions take place in a reliable, "trusted" virtual distribution environment that provides significant efficiency and cost savings benefits to users in addition to providing an extremely high degree of confidence and trustedness. The systems and techniques have many uses including but not limited to secure document delivery, execution of legal documents, and electronic data interchange (EDI). See abstract.

USP 6,577,733 to Charrin discloses a secure cashless gaming system comprises a plurality of gaming devices, which may or may not be connected to a central host network. Each gaming device includes an intelligent data device reader which is uniquely associated with a security module interposed between the intelligent data device reader and the gaming device processor. A portable data device bearing credits is used to allow players to play the various gaming devices. When a portable data device is presented to the gaming device, it is authenticated before a gaming session is allowed to begin. The intelligent data device reader in each gaming device monitors gaming transactions and stores the results for later readout in a secure format by a portable data extraction unit, or else for transfer to a central host network. Gaming transaction data may be aggregated by the portable data extraction unit from a number of different gaming devices, and may be transferred to a central accounting and processing system for tracking the number of remaining gaming credits for each portable data unit and/or

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player. Individual player habits can be monitored and tracked using the aggregated data. The intelligent data device reader may be programmed to automatically transfer gaming **credits** from a portable data device the gaming device, and continually refresh the **credits** each time they drop below a certain **minimum level**, thus alleviating the need for the player to manually enter an amount of gaming **credits** to transfer to the gaming device (See abstract).

Any inquiry concerning this communication from the Examiner should be directed to Jean D. Janvier, whose telephone number is (571) 272-6719. The aforementioned can normally be reached Monday-Thursday from 10:00AM to 6:00 PM EST. If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's Supervisor, Mr. Eric W. Stamber, can be reached at (571) 272- 6724.

Non-Official- 571-273-6719.

Official Draft : 571-273-8300

05/15/08

/J. J./

/Jean Janvier/

for Jean D. Janvier, Examiner of Art Unit 3688

